

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



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P.O. Box 1148
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Date Issued: 8/27/2012
Time: 11:00 a.m.

KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING OPENING

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 6 hours from the hours of 3 p.m. until 9 p.m. Monday, August 27.

Fishermen are reminded to check with Great Pacific if the buyer needs to shorten the hours they will buy fish because of limited capacity or airline schedules.

Last night's harvest was 673 chum salmon caught by 10 permit holders. Fishing effort and catches were well below average. Fishermen are reporting very murky water from the series of storms and they have expressed hope that catches will pick up with improving water conditions. Cumulative catch is now over 223,000 chum salmon and with this week likely being the last week of the commercial salmon fishery the forecast harvest of 250,000 to 280,000 chum salmon is not expected to be reached.

Continuing with short duration openings should not jeopardize escapement and allow for subsistence fishing opportunity.

If you have any questions concerning the fishery you can call the Kotzebue office at 442-3420, or the Commercial Fisheries office in Nome at 1-800-560-2271 or the buyer at 442-4192.